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This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6: Cancelled

7. (Currently Amended) A walking aid comprising:

a rod for bearing at least a portion of a user's weight;
a flexible tip for contacting a substantially horizontal surface; and
a joint mechanism coupled between an end of the rod and the flexible tip and comprising a spring member, wherein the spring member flexes longitudinally when a force transmitted by the rod comprises a horizontal component,

wherein the joint mechanism further comprises a first bushing positioned in a hole in the end of the rod, and wherein an end of the spring member is positioned in a cavity of the first bushing.

Claims 8-12: Cancelled

13. (Currently Amended) The walking aid as recited in claim [7] 12, wherein the joint mechanism further comprises a second bushing positioned in a hole in the flexible tip, and wherein an opposite end of the spring member is positioned in a cavity of the second bushing.

14. (Original) A crutch, comprising:

a rod for bearing at least a portion of a user's weight;

a flexible tip for contacting a substantially horizontal surface; and

a joint mechanism coupled between an end of the rod and the flexible tip,
comprising:

a coil spring having opposed first and second ends, wherein the coil
spring flexes longitudinally when a force transmitted by the rod comprises a
horizontal component;

a first bushing positioned in a hole in the end of the rod and having a

cavity adapted to receive the first end of the coil spring; and

a second bushing positioned in a hole in the flexible tip and having a

cavity adapted to receive the second end of the coil spring.

15. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 14, wherein the longitudinal flexing of
the coil spring reduces a mechanical stiffness of the crutch.

16. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 14, wherein the longitudinal flexing of
the coil spring allows the flexible tip to rotate, and wherein the rotating of the flexible
tip improves an ability of the flexible tip to grip the horizontal surface.

17. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 14, further comprising a tube and a
button lock adjustment mechanism, wherein the rod is positioned inside the tube and
adjustably connected to the tube via the button lock adjustment mechanism.

18. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 17, wherein the rod is telescopically extendable from the tube via the button lock adjustment mechanism.

19. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 17, further comprising a pair of rods and an underarm brace, wherein one end of each of the pair of rods is connected to an underside surface of the underarm brace, and wherein an opposite end of each of the pair of rods is connected to the tube.

20. (Original) The crutch as recited in claim 19, further comprising a hand grip adjustably connected between the pair of rods.